



PATENT APPLICATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

In regard to the application of **TOMAS NILSSON** entitled **TIRE DEVICE**, serial number **10/009072**, filed **December 6, 2001**, the attached Form PTO-1449 is being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97 through 1.99.

No prior art search was conducted at the Patent and Trademark Office prior to the preparation of this application. The prior art set forth on Form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) was located in conjunction with other applications and is believed to be the most pertinent prior art known to the Applicant and the undersigned attorney with respect to the above invention.

However, the prior art set forth on Form PTO-1449 should not be construed as a representation that no better art exists, or that the information included therein is non-cumulative.

FR-A- 2 669 276 relates to a bicycle tire, which is specifically designed for so-called "mountain bikes" (page 1, line 28-30). Figs. 2 and 3 show cross-sections of one embodiment of the tire, which comprises a band 17. The purpose of the band 17 is to define, together with the other parts of the tire 1, a closed space, separate from the rim 2. The edges 18 and 19 of the band 17 are connected to tire sides 10 and 9, respectively. None of the edges 18 and 19 rest at the rim 11; this is also clear from the text on page 4.

CH-A-336 278 shows a bead band 4, having a function similar to band 17 in FR-A-669 276, more particularly to form a "closed unit" (see the independent claim, the bottom line). The edges of the bead band are connected to the respective tire sides. None of the edges rest to the rim, this is also clear from Figs. 1 and 2.

WO 98/21056 shows a band 44 having a function similar to band 17 in FR-A-2 669 276, i.e. to form a closed space. The edge of the band 44 does not rest at the rim in any of the embodiments illustrated by Figs. 1-5. It could possibly be said, with regard to the embodiment illustrated by Fig. 6, that both of the edges of band 44 are in contact with the rim - however, none of those edges are fastened to the tire bead at a distance from its respective end, as prescribed by claim 1 of the present application. Furthermore, the technology shown in this reference is not useful for heavy duty tires, as the band 44 will rapidly be torn apart by the severe strain that occurs between the bead and the rim in heavy duty tires.

Executed at Canton, Ohio this 18th day of March, 2002.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

Applicant(s): NILSSON, TOMAS

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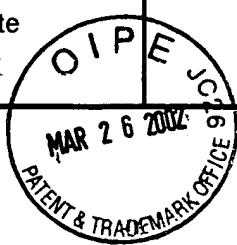
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Examiner

Group Art Unit

Invention: TIRE DEVICE

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and Three References*(Identify type of correspondence)*

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